LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) An image input apparatus comprising:

a first image pickup unit configured to optically scan a subject and thereby to acquire plural images of the subject that are partial images of the subject, wherein said first image pickup unit is further configured to obtain the partial images by moving in a plane that is parallel to a plane of the subject and without touching the subject;

a second image pickup unit which configured to continuously pick up the image that is being scanned;

an overlapping amount calculating unit configured to calculate an amount of overlap between based upon the partial images image picked up by said first image pickup unit based upon and the image picked up by said second image pickup unit, wherein the overlapping amount is the amount of overlap between the partial image picked up by said first image pickup unit and the image picked up by said second image pickup unit; and

an image recording determination unit configured to determine whether or not a current partial image is to be recorded based upon the amount of overlap calculated by the overlapping amount calculating unit, said image recording unit including a control unit responsive to the determination that a current partial image is to be recorded to automatically perform the recording.

24. (Previously Presented) An image input apparatus comprising:

a first image pickup unit configured to optically scan a subject and thereby to acquire

plural images of the subject that are partial images of the subject, wherein said first image

pickup unit is further configured to obtain the partial images by moving in a plane that is

parallel to a plane of the subject and without touching the subject;

a second image pickup unit configured to continuously pick up the image that is being

scanned;

an overlapping amount calculating unit configured to calculate an amount of overlap

between the partial images picked up by said first image pickup unit based upon the image

picked up by said second image pickup unit;

a timer configured to count time that has elapsed from when a previous partial image

was acquired; and

an image recording determination unit configured to determine whether or not a

current partial image being scanned by the first image pickup unit can be recorded based on

an information including the amount of overlap calculated by the overlapping amount

calculating unit and the time counted by said timer.

25. (Previously Presented) The image input apparatus according to claim 23, wherein

said image recording determination unit is further configured to stop acquiring the partial

images when an amount of shift of said first image pickup unit is greater than a desired value.

26. (Previously Presented) The image input apparatus according to claim 23, further

comprising an image composing unit configured to compose all or a portion of the partial

images of the subject to obtain a single image.

Claims 27-35 (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) An image input apparatus comprising:

a first optical scanning and pickup means for optically scanning a subject by moving

the first optical scanning and pickup means in a plane that is parallel to a plane of the subject

without touching the subject to acquire plural partial images of the subject;

a second optical scanning and pickup means for scanning and continuously picking up

an image of the subject;

an overlapping amount calculating means for calculating an amount of overlap

~~between~~ based upon the partial ~~images~~ image picked up by said first ~~image~~ optical scanning

and pickup means ~~based upon~~ and the image picked up by said second ~~image~~ optical

scanning and pickup means, wherein the overlapping amount is the amount of overlap

between the partial image picked up by said first optical scanning and pickup means and the

image picked up by said second optical scanning and pickup means; and

an image recording determination means for determining whether or not a current

partial image is to be recorded based upon the amount of overlap calculated by the

overlapping amount calculating means, said image recording means including a control

means responsive to the determination that a current partial image is to be recorded for

automatically performing the recordin.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) The image input apparatus according to claim 36,

wherein said image recording determination means stops acquiring the partial images when

an amount of shift of said first image pickup means is determined to be greater than a desired

value.

38. (Previously Presented) The image input apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising an image composing means for composing all or a portion of the partial images of the subject to obtain a single image.

39. (Previously Presented) An image input apparatus comprising:

a first optical scanning and image pickup means for optically scanning a subject by moving the first optical scanning and image pickup means in a plane that is parallel to a plane of the subject without touching the subject to acquire plural partial images of the subject from the first optical scanning and image pickup means;

a second optical scanning and pickup means for scanning and continuously picking up an image of the subject;

an overlapping amount calculating means for calculating an amount of overlap between the partial images picked up by said first optical scanning and pickup means based upon the image picked up by said second optical scanning and pickup means;

a timer means for counting time that has elapsed from when a previous partial image was acquired; and

an image recording determination means for determining whether or not a current partial image being scanned by the first optical scanning and pickup means can be recorded based on information including the amount of overlap calculated by the overlapping amount calculating means and the time counted by said timer means.

40. (Currently Amended) An image inputting method comprising steps of:

optically scanning a subject with a first optical scanning and pickup unit by moving the first optical scanning ~~image~~ and pickup unit in a plane that is parallel to a plane of the

subject without touching the subject to acquire plural partial images of the subject from the

first optical scanning and pickup unit;

scanning and continuously picking up an image of the subject with a second optical

scanning and pickup unit;

calculating an amount of overlap ~~between~~ based upon the partial ~~images~~ image picked

up by said first optical scanning and pickup unit ~~based upon~~ and the image picked up by said

second optical scanning and pickup unit, wherein the calculated amount of overlap is the

amount of overlap between the partial image picked up by said first optical scanning and

pickup unit and the image picked up by said second optical scanning and pickup unit;

determining whether or not a current partial image is to be recorded based upon the

amount of overlap calculated in the calculating step; and

automatically performing recording responsive to the determining step determining

that a current partial image is to be recorded.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented) The image inputting method according to claim 40,

further comprising a step of determining that an amount of shift of said first optical scanning

and pickup unit is greater than a desired value and stopping the further acquiring of the partial

images.

42. (Currently Amended) The image input ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim ~~36~~

40, further comprising a step of composing all or a portion of the partial images of the subject

to obtain a single image.

43. (Currently Amended) An image inputting method comprising steps of:

optically scanning a subject with a first optical scanning and pickup unit by moving the first optical scanning ~~image~~ <u>and pickup</u> unit in a plane that is parallel to a plane of the subject without touching the subject to acquire plural partial images of the subject from the first optical scanning and pickup unit;

scanning and continuously picking up an image of the subject with a second optical scanning and pickup unit;

calculating an amount of overlap between the partial images picked up by said first optical scanning and pickup unit based upon the image picked up by said second optical scanning and pickup unit;

counting time that has elapsed from when a previous partial image was acquired; and

determining whether or not a current partial image being scanned by the first optical scanning and pickup unit can be recorded based on information including the amount of overlap calculated in the calculating an amount of overlap step and the time counted by the counting time step.